

Date Mailed
February 22, 2000

BEFORE THE
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

Petition of Customers of the Bangor Exchange of GTE North
Incorporated for Extended Area Service With the West Salem
Exchange of CenturyTel of Wisconsin, Inc.

2180-TV-128

**NOTICE OF PROCEEDING
AND
INVESTIGATION AND ASSESSMENT OF COSTS**

THIS IS A PROCEEDING TO investigate the petition of customers of the Bangor exchange for extended area service (EAS). On December 16, 1999, the Commission received a petition from customers of the Bangor exchange of GTE North Incorporated. The petition requests that the West Salem exchange be added to their local calling area. Since there is already local calling to the West Salem exchange under the Extended Community Calling (ECC) plan, this petition should be treated as a request for extended area service (EAS) to eliminate per minute charges for calling West Salem.

The Bangor exchange already has a sizable ECC calling area, which includes the exchanges of Cataract, Sparta, Cashton, Coon Valley, and La Crosse/Onalaska in addition to West Salem. Its EAS calling area is small, including only the Holmen and Mindoro exchanges. The village of Bangor is in La Crosse County and most of the exchange area and customers are also in La Crosse County, the seat of which is La Crosse. The West Salem exchange is adjacent to the Bangor exchange and the distance between them is six miles as measured for toll purposes. The West Salem exchange is situated between the Bangor and La Crosse exchanges; a separate petition has been submitted requesting EAS between Bangor and La Crosse.

The petition satisfies the requirement of Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 167.05(1). The Commission therefore will investigate the petition in accordance with the EAS rules, Wis. Admin. Code ch. PSC 167. GTE North Incorporated and CenturyTel of Wisconsin, Inc., will be required to submit studies of the traffic between the respective exchanges in accordance with Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 167.06. If the criteria of that section are satisfied, the Commission will request an economic study as provided for in Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 167.07, to be followed by a customer survey in accordance with Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 167.08.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that the Commission considers it necessary, in order to carry out its duties, to investigate all books, accounts, practices, and activities of the GTE North Incorporated. The expenses incurred or to be incurred by the Commission which are reasonably attributable to such an investigation will be assessed against and collected from the GTE North Incorporated in accordance with the provisions of Wis. Stat. § 196.85 and Wis. Admin. Code ch. PSC 5.

The Commission does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the provision of programs, services, or employment. Any person with a disability who needs accommodations to participate in this proceeding or who needs to get this document in a different format should contact the case coordinator listed below.

Questions on this matter may be addressed to case coordinator Tom Gross of the Commission staff at (608) 267-2337 or (800) 225-7729 or by e-mail to grosst@psc.state.wi.us.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, _____

By the Commission:

Lynda L. Dorr
Secretary to the Commission

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